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June 3, 2010

The Honorable Jon Leibowitz
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Leibowitz:

I do not support exemptions from our antitrust laws. Those laws are intended to promote competition and protect consumers. Price fixing, market allocation and collusion are illegal.

I also recognize that all communication among competitors is not illegal or anticompetitive. For example, during the debate on health care reform and in my efforts to repeal the McCarran-Ferguson insurance exemption from our Federal antitrust laws, I tried to make clear that I do not believe that sharing of historical loss data would be prohibited by the antitrust laws.

I now wish to clarify that there is no antitrust barrier to oil service companies, offshore oil drilling companies and oil companies meeting with Federal officials to suggest the best ways to end the oil spill that is threatening the Gulf Coast and to contain the oil and minimize the environmental and economic damage. I would appreciate your view in this regard.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
Chairman